

Message Text

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15/43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 PC-01 AID-05 IO-10 SAM-01 SAB-01

EUR-12 /081 W

----- 025480

O R 211305Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 770

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 11338

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y T E X T

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IN

SUBJECT: BLITZ ARTICLE ON CIA

REF: NEW DELHI 11339 (BOMBAY 2117)

1. REFTEL SUMMARY OF CURRENT BLITZ MAGAZINE BROADSIDES AGAINST US INVOLVEMENT IN BANGLADESH, THREAT TO INDIA, ETC. IS MOST RABID ANTI-US PIECE WHICH HAS BEEN PUBLISHED SINCE THE EMERGENCY. WE AGREE WITH CONGEN BOMBAY THAT, APPEARING AS IT DOES SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH A LONG INTERVIEW BETWEEN EDITOR KARANJIA AND MRS. GANDHI, IT WILL CONVEY TO MOST READERS A SENSE OF GOI AND MRS. GANDHI'S CONCUR-

RENCE. THE BLITZ ARTICLES ORCHESTRATE ALL THE BITS AND PIECES OF
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ANTI-US ISSUES WHICH HAVE BEEN FLOATING IN THE LAST 18 MONTHS--

DIEGO GARCIA, THE DOMESTIC OPPOSITION MOVEMENT, PETER BURLEIGH, AMB HELMS' VISIT HERE LAST YEAR, RECENT EVENTS IN SRI LANKA, ETC.

2. WE AGREE WITH CONGEN BOMBAY THAT KARANJIA SEEMS UNTOUCHABLE AND FOR

THE REASONS SUGGESTED IN REFTEL. A LETTER OF PROTEST TO MEA'S FOREIGN SECRETARY SEVERAL WEEKS AGO ABOUT AN UNSIGNED BLITZ COMMENTARY ELICITED ONLY THE REGRET THAT THERE WAS NOTHING MEA COULD DO. WE THINK THAT IS PROBABLY CORRECT. NEVERTHELESS WE SHALL COMPLAIN AGAIN, EVEN MORE BITTERLY THIS TIME AND THE BLITZ PIECES CERTAINLY PROVIDE ABUNDANT AMMUNITION SHOULD THE DEPARTMENT CARE TO USE IT WITH THE INDIAN EMBASSY. SENATOR EAGLETON PLANS TO RAISE THE ARTICLE WITH MRS. GANDHI WHEN HE CALLS ON HER THIS EVENING (AUG 21).

3. THE GOI HAS THIS INCREDIBLE SCHIZOPHRENIA WHICH ENABLES IT TO ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET FOR SENATOR EAGLETON AND CONGRESSMAN CEDERBERG, TO HAVE THE PM MAKE A RARE EXCEPTION AND ACCEPT A DINNER INVITATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR, AND SCHEDULE A VISIT BY THE INDIAN VICE-PRESIDENT TO THE US WHILE ALLOWING ABSOLUTELY SCURRILOUS AND POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS PROPAGANDA OF THE TYPE CHARACTERIZED IN BLITZ. SIMILAR MATERIAL SLATED FOR PUBLICATION IN AT LEAST ONE NULCUTTA PAPER, HOWEVER, WAS CUT OUT WITH THE DIRECT APPROVAL OF CIEF MINISTER RAY. SO IT SEEMS TO BE BLITZ PLUS A FEW CPI NEWS-PAPERS. PERHAPS THIS IS THE "PRICE" MRS. GANDHI FEELS SHE HAS TO PAY TO KEEP HER "CREFMIBILITY" WITH THE "LEFTISTS" AND THE EASTERN EUROPEANS.

4. AN ADDITIONAL CONCERN, OF COURSE, IS THAT IF ANYTHING WERE TO

HAPPEN TO MRS. GANDHI AS A RESULT OF SOME WILDLY FRUSTRATEEBINDIAN'S ACTIONS, THE INSTANTANEOUS REACTION MIGHT LKLL BE DIRECTED AGAINST THE USG, THE EMBASSY, AND AMERICAN CITIZENS IN INDIA. WE TRUST THE DEPARTMENT WILL MAKE THIS POINT TO THE INDIAN EMBASSY, AS WE WILL TO AUTHORITIES HERE.
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